

10/729,197
December 27th, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 09/27/2004

Via Facsimile

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the September 27th, 2004 Office Action. Filed herewith and incorporated to this amendment is a 132 affidavit from the Maurice Jenkins, who is the first listed inventor in prior art Jenkins '718. Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejections of claims 1-20 in light of the above amendments and the following remarks:

Drawings

The examiner is thanked for his comments on the drawings.

In regards to a prior art label on figure 4, this has been added.

In regards to listed elements 6, 52, 58 and 82, these elements have been called out at the appropriate places in the specification through the amendments to the specification without adding new matter.

In regards to the examiner's suggestion that "the device with fewer electrical outputs than electrical inputs," as claimed in claim 5 be diagrammed is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 states that multiple electrical signal wires can be combined into a single signal wire using a device. Performing this would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art without further diagramming.

In regards to the examiner's suggestion that "the multiple seals that share originating and receiving tasks," as in claim 12 be diagrammed is traversed. Fig. 3 shows a somewhat stylized diagram, in that only two vibration sensors are illustrated whereas in reality many more receiving and originating cables (elements 22) would be present. Due to the large number of cables, more than one seal would likely be used per generator, therefore the originating and receiving tasks are shared between multiple seals. Some seals may only receive, while others only originate, or some combination of this. Such would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art without further diagramming.

No new matter has been added.

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Specification

The specification has been amended to correct typos at the examiner's suggestion. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Applicant has made corrections based on examiner's suggestions.

Rejection of claims under § 112

The above cancellation of claim 16 should remove this rejection.

Rejection of claims 1-21 under § 103(a)

The examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13-15, 16, 17 and 20 as being unpatentable over Miller '464 in view of Jenkins '718 and in further view of Gabrys '542. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As discussed in the attached 132 affidavit, the Jenkins '718 patent does not teach converting a fiber optic signal to an electrical signal internally to the generator. Further, Miller '464 does not make up for this deficiency, as is evidenced in column 2, line 27 of Miller '464: "...directs the light to a desired remote location..." Gabrys '542 also does not teach a fiber optic signal to an electrical signal internally to the generator.

Converting a fiber optic signal from a vibration sensor within a generator seal (internal to the generator) and then exporting electrical wires through a hermetic barrier is novel over the cited prior art.

The examiner further rejected claim 2 as being unpatentable over Miller '464 in view of Jenkins '718 and in further view of Gabrys '542 and in still further view of Rosenfeld '186. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Jenkins '718 does teach converting a fiber optic signal to an electrical signal internally to the generator. Rosenfeld '186 does not make up for this deficiency.

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The examiner further rejected claims 4 and 9 as being unpatentable over Miller '464 in view of Jenkins '718 and in further view of Gabrys '542 and in still further view of Sanders '189. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As discussed above, Jenkins '718 does teach converting a fiber optic signal to an electrical signal internally to the generator. Sander '189 does not make up for this deficiency.

The examiner further rejected claims 6, 7, 12, 18 and 19 as being unpatentable over Miller '464 in view of Jenkins '718 and in further view of Gabrys '542 and in still further view of Kurihara '813. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As discussed above, Jenkins '718 does teach converting a fiber optic signal to an electrical signal internally to the generator. Kurihara '813 does not make up for this deficiency.

In view of the above amendments, remarks, and attached affidavit, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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by



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10/729,197
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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

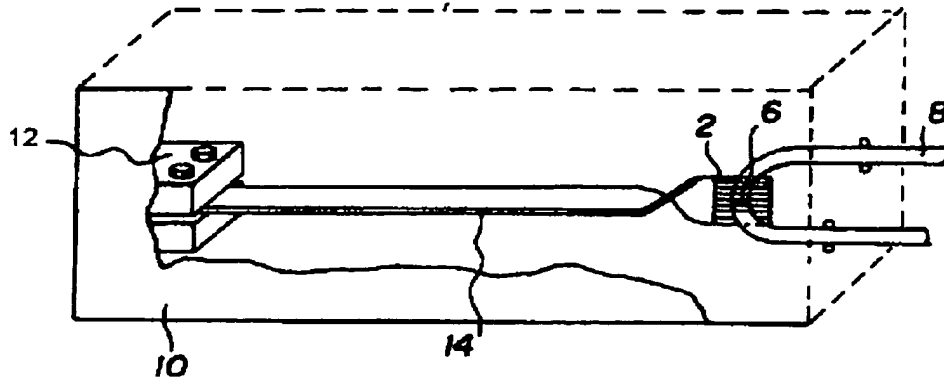


FIG. 1

Prior Art

← "PRIOR ART"
ADDED